



Carkeek Forest and Trails Project Update May, 2003

Background

For the past three years volunteers organized by the Carkeek Park Advisory Council have been working with Seattle Parks and Recreation to improve trails and restore habitat at Carkeek Park. Working with consultants and Seattle Parks and Recreation we developed a Trails Site Plan and a Forest Management Plan. This year we have joined the two efforts in a joint Forest and Trails project. We have obtained a Small and Simple grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to cover the cost of materials. We provide labor through volunteer work parties.

Forest

Now that there is a Forest Management Plan for Carkeek Park (FMP), all activities like restoration, enrichment, planting, and maintenance will be based on the FMP. We found a wonderful source of fir, cedar, and hemlock seedlings: the Weyerhaeuser Seedling Donation Program. With the funds provided by the Department of Neighborhood we will be able to buy other trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants from nurseries specializing in wild NW plants.

During the past planting season, roughly between January and April, several small areas were planted. During spring and summer our focus will be on maintenance: watering the young plants when there is a drought, and preventing blackberries from overgrowing the new trees. In the fall we will start preparing the areas that we have selected to be planted or enriched. This involves ivy and holly removal, and clearing spots where the plants will be planted.

There will be Forest work parties on the following days (Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM)

June 14
July 19

August 16
September 6

If you would like to become involved with the Forest program in Carkeek Park, please contact Lex Voorhoeve (206) 706-1009 or the Park staff, (206) 684-0877.

Trails

Our goal for trails improvement this year is to finish improving all the existing trails that were designated as maintained trails in the Site Plan. These are the trails shown in color on the trails map that we provide at the kiosks in the park. During the winter and spring this year we have been working on trails in the drier parts of the north and south slopes. As drier weather arrives we will begin to work on trails in wetter areas. If we reach our goal, next winter all the maintained trails will have a firm surface – no mud!

There will be trails work parties on the following days (Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM)

May 17
May 31
June 7
June 21

July 12
August 9
September 13
September 27

We welcome your participation! If you would like to join in a trails improvement work party or participate in one of our support activities please contact Cynthia Wilson, (206) 781-2263.

Volunteers Improving and Enjoying Carkeek Park